Excellent paper on an intriguing subject — well written + nicely put together.

But where, oh where, are the footnotes that the instructions asked for?

History 3326
History of New Jersey

Mr. Friedlington
Fall 1980

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Tri-City Citizens Union for Progress

(A Contribution of Blacks to the History and Culture of New Jersey)

December 8, 1980

Inez V. Watkins

History 3326
History of New Jersey

Mr. Fridlington
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Tri-City Citizens Union for Progress

In the summer of 1967 Newark, the largest and most populous city in New Jersey erupted in violence. According to the Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders the long-standing causes of civil disorders were: ignorance, discrimination, slums, poverty, disease, unemployment and underemployment, augmented by a feeling of frustration despair and helplessness. The report concluded that racism was

the element underlying the problems but it saw no early or peaceful resolutions to the situation.

In Newark the proposed building of a medical and dental college, with its consequent demolition of homes and businesses on 150 acres in the middle of the Central Ward, and the attempt to appoint a White man with only a high school education as secretary of the Board of Education, rather than a Negro with a masters degree in accounting, who was serving as the city's budget director, were considered the immediate causes of the violence in the city

Shortly after the cessation of

violence the Episcopal diocese, having been convinced that its old method of spending thousands of dollars planning for Blacks had failed, called a meeting of the various denominations to gain support for a type of coalition whereby Blacks could formulate their own plans for solving their own problems.

The diocese had recently hired a young Black sociologist, Dr Nathan Wright Jr. as its director of Urban Affairs. Under the guidance of Dr. Wright the group formed a working coalition.

Based on the philosophy that the feeling of helplessness can only be alleviated by the development of power, political,

educational and economic. - lack of these ingredients was a fundamental factor in the disorders - the group reached an agreement to help finance a program by which the people might do their own planning. The Episcopal church contributed $10,000, the Presbyterian $8,000, Baptist $2,000, and other groups smaller amounts.

Taking into account a study that showed that cities in the north-eastern part of the United States ~~had~~ with similar population, wealth and economic conditions had similar problems, it was felt that these problems might well be solved by combining assets; economic, financial

and leadership. The three cities selected to test this belief were Newark, Jersey City and Paterson. They came together to form the Tri-City Coalition. The Paterson faction never got off the ground because there was not sufficient leadership or involvement of the community. Jersey City was somewhat more succesful in the beginning but was too politically involved to continue support for this type of endeavor.

The Newark group was the only one to continue and has evolved as a leading proponent of neighborhood development in the West Ward of Newark. The Rev. William Fox of the N.J. Council of Churches was the

first President.

The West ward was chosen because it was an area that had not deteriorated too much, and although not a large number of the homes were owner-occupied there was reason to believe that if the program was successful urban decay could be stopped there.

The Tri-City Coalition, now known as the Tri-City Citizens Union for Progress, was established as a non-profit community corporation committed to achieving the social and physical rehabilitation of the community and to improve the quality of life in the 12 block area which extends from Springfield Avenue to 16th Avenue and Westside Park to the Irvington line.

In their 1967 report to the people the Tri-City Coalition had stated that a first priority should be to "exert every possible effort to raise the level of education and close the overwhelming educational gap that now exists in Newark"

It soon became clear, however, that it would take a long period of time and more resources than the Coalition could muster to make any significant changes in the educational system. Furthermore the community felt that its first priority should be to prevent further deterioration, and to rehabilitate the existing housing, because without a stable community, all other goals would be irrevelant.

The Tri-City Citizens for Progress committed itself to achieve the following goals:

1. Economic development of the community.
2. Education of children and adults for the world of work.
3. Greater awareness of the cultural heritages of the community.
4. Wider civic participation
5. General Community rehabilitation

It will be recalled that funds were contributed to underwrite expenses for the beginning organization. None of these funds were used for salaries because all the original workers and founders were volunteers. It now become necessary to secure further funds to meet the stated goals of the organization. The source of those funds was the newly organized State Department of Community

Affairs. The application by a non-profit organization had to be supported by a profit-making organization. The one decided upon was the Priority Investment Corporation - a $30,000 investment by a number of private individuals on a loan to the PIC. With this $30,000 nest egg they were able to get a grant making their assets equal to $8,000,000. This money was needed to put to-gether a package for the rehabilitation of the first 104 houses. The first objective of the group was achieved through the housing rehabilitation program known as Amity Village #1 which is now a housing cooperative made up of 96 units. At least 600 additional privately owned

buildings are now completed and occupied.

On a visit to Tre-City I saw many of the rehabilitated houses. They are 2, 4, and 6 family buildings. Those in the Cooperative are distinguished by wrought iron railings, brick and stone steps, and distinctively painted, newly installed entrance doors. On three buildings solar heat collectors have been installed which provide the dwellings with hot water. Tre City has pioneered in the use of solar energy in inner city houses.

An estimated 30% of energy costs is saved according to the Reverend Thomasberger who explained to how the system

works. Rev. Thomasberger is the financial administrator and director of the Tri City Peoples Center which is an on-going project of the Tri-City Citizens Union.

In the Cooperative the family buys the apartment with a down payment of four hundred dollars. The rest of the mortgage is paid like rent. They can only sell with the consent of the Cooperative. Most of the families have never had the experience of owning their own homes and take great pride in keeping up their property. The Corporation hopes to turn more of the housing into Cooperatives.

In spite of the progress of the housing rehabilitation it became obvious that to continue to improve the quality of life in the area many social programs were needed. How to finance these programs became a matter of immediate concern.

There was little help forthcoming from the business community, although there had been much rhetoric and many promises of financial aid. It became necessary to search for another source of funds. This was found in the North American Investment Corporation of Boston, one of whose investors knew of the goals of Tri-City. Thru the efforts of Ernest Thompson a fund of $270,000

was set aside for the development of social programs in consideration of a tax shelter (for five years). ?

Social programs setup included the following:

I The Neighborhood Aid and Information Center.

This program was set up to give information on, Social Security, legal services, Welfare questions, health, family counselling and transportation.

II The Children's Health Action Project.

At this site children are given physical exams, immunizations and tests for lead, iron anemia, tuberculosis vision, hearing and blood pressure.

III The Women's Clinic.

Women are given pelvic and breast examinations, tests for diabetes, blood pressure and tuberculosis.

There are counselling and referral services for all these programs. The services are free to participants and since about 30% are Puerto Rican all information, whether written or oral is given in both English and Spanish.

IV The Bi-Cultural Day Care Project

30 English and Spanish speaking children whose parents work or attend school are served by this project. Each child is helped to become proficient in his home language as well as the second language.

I visited this facility with Mrs Emma Moore, Community Service and Youth Coordinator and was surprised to hear many of these pre-schools children animatedly talking to each other in Spanish or English, switching from one language to the other according to who was talking to them.

† Crusade for Learning Study Help Project.

This program serves 75 school age-(6-9) children of working or studying parents. They attend the center after school and are helped with their school work especially language arts and math.

It seems there is little for the youngster between the ages

of nine to fifteen. When I inquired about this I was told that they are concerned and expect to come up with a program in the near future.

High school age students who are on a work-study program can put their talents to work in the program as carpenters, painters, tile setters etc. It is a non sexist situation. In fact I was informed that the expert tile-setter is a high school girl!

The Tri-City Citizens Union for Progress is one of the few programs implemented as an aftermath of the civil disorders to show tangible results and to continue as an on-going

project.

Starting from a few volunteers meeting in a storefront on Springfield Ave in Newark it has progressed to an organization of many volunteers and over 40 regular paid employees

The project seems to have an interesting future. In August the West side Citizens Development Corporation was awarded a $152,000 grant through the Neighborhood Self Help Development Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The money will be used to generate private and public investments of at least $1.2 million for housing rehabilitation and other

projects on So. 18th St.' Part of the future plans for the area are a super-market and a fast food facility.

This organization feels that its success to date is due to the fact that a community with common needs and goals was able to come together under a coalition of leadership and work out common solutions.

In preparing this research paper I visited the Tri-City complex, where I was given a tour of the many facilities which are scattered over several city blocks, by Mr. Ed. Andrade - director of the West Side Citizens Development

Corporation.

I had oral interviews with:

Mrs. Vera McMillon, trustee and a founder of Tri-City

Rev. Joseph Thomasberger - Financial Administrator and Director of Peoples Center.

Mrs Emma Moore - Community Service and Youth Coordinator

Mrs. Frances Copland, Resident Manager (210 units)

Bibliography

Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders 1968

"West Side Neighbors" (Newspaper) Tri City Citizens Union for Progress Aug. 1980

Progress Report - 1979 Tri-City Citizens Union for Progress

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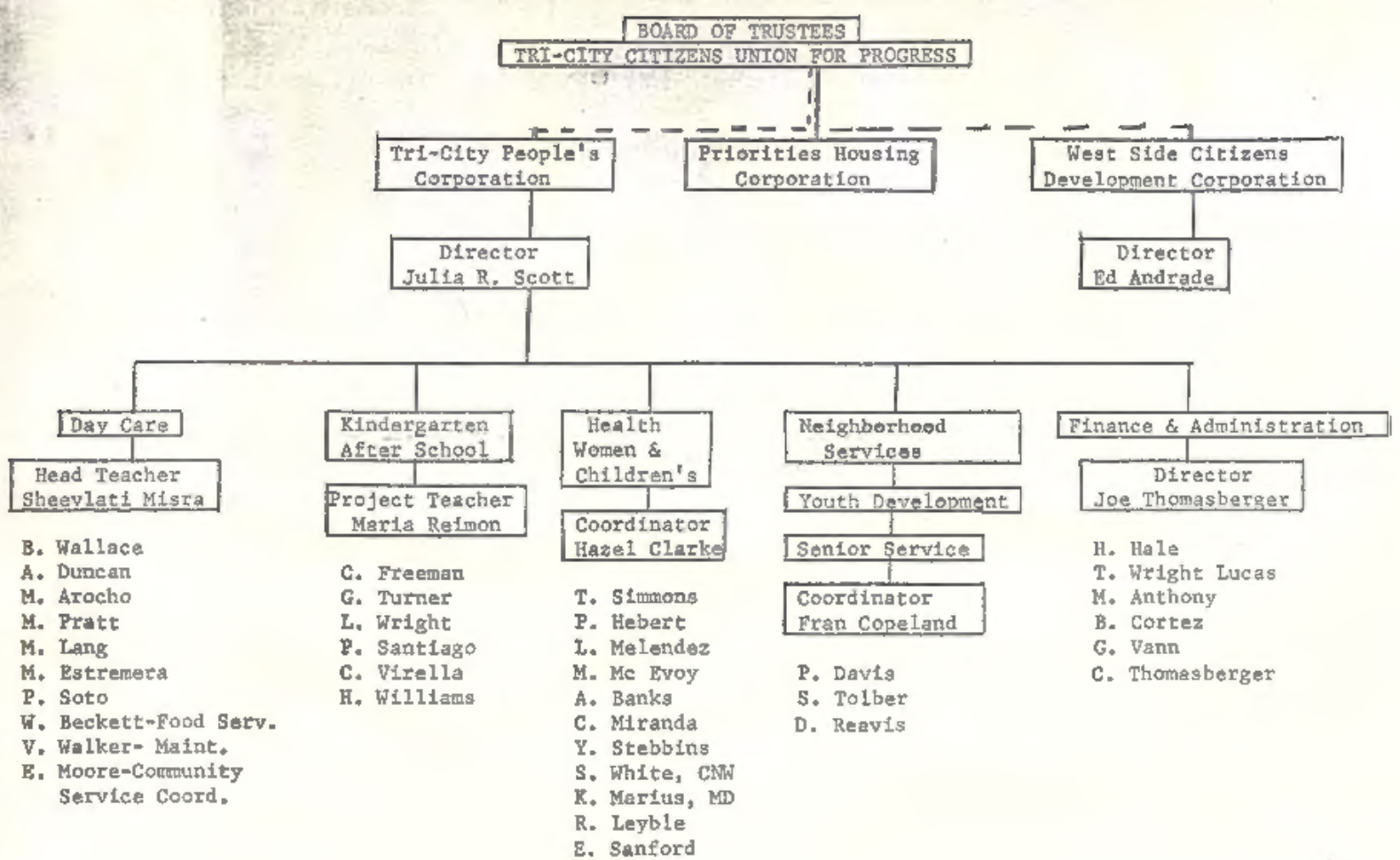
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TRI-CITY CITIZENS UNION FOR PROGRESS
Tri-City People's Corporation
Priorities Housing Corporation
West Side Citizens Development Corporation
Director Julia R. Scott
Director Ed Andrade
Day Care
Head Teacher Sheevlati Misra
B. Wallace
A. Duncan
M. Arocho
M. Pratt
M. Lang
M. Estremera
P. Soto
W. Beckett-Food Serv.
V. Walker- Maint.
E. Moore-Community Service Coord.
Kindergarten After School
Project Teacher Maria Reimon
C. Freeman
G. Turner
L. Wright
P. Santiago
C. Virella
H. Williams
Health Women & Children's
Coordinator Hazel Clarke
T. Simmons
P. Hebert
L. Melendez
M. Mc Evoy
A. Banks
C. Miranda
Y. Stebbins
S. White, CNW
K. Marius, MD
R. Leyble
E. Sanford
Neighborhood Services
Youth Development
Senior Service
Coordinator Fran Copeland
P. Davis
S. Tolber
D. Reavis
Finance & Administration
Director Joe Thomasberger
H. Hale
T. Wright Lucas
M. Anthony
B. Cortez
G. Vann
C. Thomasberger

CONTRACTS & GRANTS: TRI-CITY PEOPLE'S CENTER

PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE(S)	AMOUNT	END DATE	CONTRACT PERSON
DAY CARE	Title XX (DYFS) City of Newark	122,850	9-30-80	Joan Ayers/Cathy Sellers Rosa Langston
KINDERGARTEN/AFTER SCHOOL	Title XX (DYFS) Victoria Foundation (match) Fund Raising (match)	127,575 (21,000) (5,851.25)	12-31-80	Joan Ayers/Cathy Sellers Howard Quirk Policy Committee
CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM	N.J. Department of Education	40,000	12-31-80	Jill Miglio
AID & INFORMATION				
Senior Citizens Outreach	CETA	1 staff	On going	Margaret Moore
Project Go!	MEM	driver/van	On going	Sandy Bolden
HEALTH				
Comm. Health Education	Schumann Foundation	98,471	12-31-80	Mary Strong
Cervical Cancer	State Health Department	6,600	12-31-80	Ms. Grube
EPSDT	Dept. Human Services	no limit	On going	
Non Med. Child	Newark Health & Welfare	16,000	3-31-80	Rashieh Meyers Bernite Stanley
YOUTH				
Neighborhood Careers for Youth (Peer Health Counselor)	Essex County CETA - SYEP	35,776	9-30-80	Budd Dickenson
OTHER				
College Work Study	ECC	1 staff	On going	
Senior Citizens CETA	Newark	2 staff	On going	Margaret Moore
Youth Chance	Mt. Carmel Guild		On going	Mrs. Hunt
High School Students	CETA (Irv.)		On going	Mr. Lonergan
		39 ,272		
PROPOSED PROJECTS				
Neighborhood Senior Citizens Services Coordination Project	Essex County Office On Aging	12,000	12-31-80	Robert Misurell
Stimulating Neighborhood Action Project (SNAP)	Schumann Foundation	5,000	6 months	Mary Strong
West Side Neighbors for Youth Proj.	United Community Corporation	59,235	12-31-80	Floyd Melvin
Urban Crime Prevention Program	Action/LEAA	50,000		Alan Zalkind
Neighborhood Organizing	Campaign for HUMAN Development	80-100,000	2 yrs.	